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LET US CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPTEMBER 16 TO OCTOBER 15

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008
Volume 22
Number 2



HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

San Bernardino ♦ Riverside ♦ Colton ♦ Rialto ♦ Fontana ♦ Moreno Valley
Ontario ♦ Corona ♦ Bloomington ♦ Rancho Cucamonga ♦ Highland ♦ Redlands

S.B. CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CANDIDATE- Dr. BARBARA FLORES



Dr. Barbara Flores, a candidate for the San Bernardino City School District's Board of Trustees, has been in the educational field since 1970, beginning as an ESL teacher in the Madera Unified School District to her current position since 1987 as professor at Cal-State, San Bernardino.

"My whole life has been dedicated to the education of our students from the elementary to college level. Education was one of the most important activities in my early life, opening opportunities for me and the motivational factor in the selection of a career in the teaching profession," Flores stated.

Flores received a B.A. in Spanish and Latin American Studies at Cal-State University, Hayward; M.A. in Reading Education at Cal-State University, Sacramento; and Ph.D. in Reading, Higher Education Administration and Bilingual Education at University of Arizona, Tucson. She has a California Life Teaching Credential-CSU-Fresno and a Bilingual Specialist Credential K-12-CSU-Sacramento.

Her teaching experiences includes ESL, reading and math instruction at several northern school districts, reading and social studies instructor at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, reading instructor at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Assistant Professor at Arizona State University, Tempe-College of Education (1980-1987), and presently at CSU-SB-Department of Language, Literacy and Culture since the Fall of 1987.

Flores has membership in numerous outstanding national, state and local educational organizations, including the International Reading Association, American Educators Research Association (Hispanic Research-chair), National Council of Teachers of English, California Association of Bilingual Educators,

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MARY FIGUEROA-TO RUN FOR RCC FOURTH TERM



Mary Figueroa, a three-term Riverside Community College District Trustee, announced her candidacy to serve the students at the three campus community college system.

Elected to the RCC Board of Trustees in 1995, Figueroa currently is serving a consecutive second term as board president.

Her campaign priorities: 1) Providing the diverse student body with a variety of educational and occupational opportunities, expansion of the Allied Health programs and Nursing/Science building; 2) Selecting a chancellor to guide the district as it transforms into separate colleges; 3) Strengthening public/private partnerships, such as alliances with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and the Riverside County Fire Department;

and 4) Advocating on behalf of all students and ensuring they have the tools they need to succeed.

Figueroa has established an outstanding history of community activities, beginning at the early age of 16 while a student in her government class at John W. North High School. A man spoke to her government class and announced his candidacy for city council, requesting the class for help in his campaign.

Figueroa was surprised at his request, thinking 'who is this guy asking a bunch of 16-year old kids to help him.

This was, however, a catalyzing moment in 1973 that catapulted her into a belief that her involvement could make a difference; that has, to date, generated a myriad of worthwhile community activities. (Figueroa became involved in the Eric Haley's campaign, who won the Riverside City Council. Haley later stated that "Mary was an active volunteer, working in the Riverside's Eastside.)

She followed by becoming involved in neighborhood youth organizations formed to deal with local gang activity and police conflict.

Figueroa's mother, Cruz A. Moreno, a single mother who

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RICHARDSON PREP HI HAS HIGHEST API SCORE OF ANY MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SAN BERNARDINO AND RIVERSIDE COUNTIES

Richardson PREP HI Middle School's recent API (Academic Performance Index) score of 927 is more than just good news; it is evidence of long-term dedication to educating students.

API is a score between 200 and 1,000 assigned to schools by the California Department of Education based on students' standardized test scores. The target for all schools is 800, and schools scoring under 800 are given an annual growth target, the number of points by which their scores must increase. Growth is not required for schools scoring at or

above 800.

In 1999, Richardson scored 859 on the API, with average scores for all statistically significant subgroups, including socio-economically disadvantaged students, at 822 or above. By 2004, Richardson's score had risen to 877, with subgroups scoring 850 or above.

"Richardson continues to show growth because of the hard work and dedication of everyone involved including teachers, students, parents, administrators, and staff," said seventh-grade language arts teacher Marisa Rivas. "We are all constantly

reflecting upon and evaluating our progress, looking for the slightest areas where we can make a difference."

Richardson's current score of 927 is not only the highest in San Bernardino City Unified, but also the highest of any middle school in all of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. In the two counties combined, only two Chino Valley Unified elementary schools had higher scores.

"Richardson continues to grow because of a proven academic system, dogged attention to teaching the

California Content Standards, dedicated teachers, and the synergy of teachers, students, and parents working together in a small school setting," Principal Jim Kissinger said. "We also believe that our academic success is enhanced by our commitment to the fine arts."

In addition to phenomenal standardized test scores, Richardson boasts an award-winning music program, with the advanced band and orchestra earning an excellent rating at last year's Music in the Parks Festival.

S.B. CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CANDIDATE- Dr. BARBARA FLORES

Continued from page 1

National Association of Bilingual Educators (President-2007), among others; and has participated in national educational academic development and research committees.

She has been in demand as a consultant of state, local, national and international education due to her expertise in the education field, specifically related to language, literacy, and biliteracy development; and numerous publications.

Flores has also been the recipient of numerous awards: California Chicano News Media Association-Esperanza Award for Unselfish Service to the Latino Community (1997); Los Angeles County Bilingual Directors Association-Inspiring Teachers/Learners Awards (1997); Arizona Association of Bilingual Education-Contribution to

Improve Education (2002); Texas Women University-Bilingual-ESL Program-Appreciation for Service Award (2002); Inland Empire Coalition Task Force-Inland Empire Latina Education Award (2007); and Hispanic Lifestyle Magazine-Most Influential Latina in the Inland Empire Award (2007).

"My total commitment to the parents, children and residents in the San Bernardino School District will be to focus on policies that promote safe school environments; insure a sound fiscal budget; parent and student involvement in finding viable solutions to issues and challenges; improve student academic achievement, graduation and college-going rates; and enhance technological, vocational, and fine arts programs."



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HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

The Inland Empire Hispanic News is owned and operated by the Hispanic Communication and Development Corporation.

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TEACHERS FOR TOMORROW PARTICIPANTS TO BE RECOGNIZED

SAN BERNARDINO, CA - Four San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools' educational assistants have been selected to participate in the Teachers for Tomorrow program. The quartet will be recognized on Oct. 6 at the Board of Education meeting at 3:30 p.m. at the Roy C Hill Education Center, 601 N. E St.

Teachers for Tomorrow provides financial assistance to County Schools' educational assistants who pursue their bachelor's degrees and teaching credentials. Selection of the participants is based on candidates' applications, letters of recommendation and an interview by a California School Employees Association representative and county administrators.

Since 1997, more than 25 participants in the Teachers for Tomorrow program have finished their education programs and been hired as teachers by County Schools.

The educational assistants selected

SENATE ACT WOULD RESTORE RULE OF LAW TO IMMIGRANT ENFORCEMENT

American Immigration Law Foundation Lauds
Menendez-Kennedy Raids Bill

WASHINGTON, DC - Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) proposed the "Protect Citizens and Residents from Unlawful Raids and Detention Act" (S.3594) to establish minimum standards of treatment for U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents and immigrants who are impacted by immigration enforcement operations. The following is a statement by Ben Johnson, Director of the American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF)—an immigration policy, litigation, and education organization in Washington, DC.

"The American Immigration Law Foundation applauds Senators Menendez and Kennedy's efforts to reintroduce the rule of law and the basic principles of fairness and humanity to the enforcement of our country's immigration laws with the Protect Citizens and Residents from Unlawful Raids and Detention Act. Due process and equal treatment under the law are fundamental rights that our country has stood for and are at the heart of the Menendez-Kennedy bill.

In recent months, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has dramatically stepped up interior enforcement efforts and it's no secret that hundreds of ICE detainees have been grossly denied not only due process protections, but also the fair treatment that every person,

regardless of their immigration status, deserves. This failure to abide by the rule of law has resulted in utter chaos: U.S. citizens and lawful residents have been mistakenly detained; workers have been retaliated against for exercising their rights to organize in the workplace; and DHS officials have raided private homes without a warrant.

Immigration raids, detentions, and mass deportations terrorize workers and wreak havoc on families and entire communities with no real payoff. We can't expect to deport our way out of our immigration problem and we can't expect to improve wages and working conditions by simply removing a class of exploited workers. What we need is fair and practical comprehensive immigration reform that restores the rule of law through realistic regulation.

Yet in the meantime, we can't lose sight of who we are and what America stands for. As a country, we have always valued the need for fairness, due process, and the ability and freedom to have a voice in our judicial system. However, when it comes to immigration, our nation's noble legacy has been bluntly disregarded by federal officials. It's encouraging that members in Congress are prepared to challenge the current administration and reaffirm our uncompromising commitment to these principles."

For more information contact Andrea Nill, 202-507-7520 or email anill@aifl.org

for the program this year are:

•Gloria Good, who works with students at the West Valley Juvenile Hall and has worked in the resource specialist program at Henry Elementary and Eisenhower High School. She plans to be an alternative education teacher.

•Soummayyah Raheem, who works as a state preschool associate at the Adelanto State Preschool in the High Desert. She is pursuing a degree to become an early childhood special education teacher.

•Christina Teneriello, who works with students at E.J. Marshall Elementary School in Chino and is currently working with moderate to severe children with a range of disabilities. She wants to become a special education teacher.

•Jose Vega, who works with students at Barbara Phelps County High School in Redlands. He wants to become a community day school teacher.

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Continued from page 1

MARY FIGUEROA-TO RUN FOR RCC FOURTH TERM

supported the family on a housekeeper's wages, instilled in her children the value of a good education. Getting an education for Figueroa was a continual struggle, commingling family life, community service, coupled with the voluntary desegregation of the school system.

Figueroa realized her talent for communicating, and continued to hone those skills, which later served her well with the California Department of Corrections and as a trustee for the RCC Board.

As a result of her mother's insistence on her children to become involved in music, Figueroa joined the school band. She met and established close relationships with students whose lifestyles were opposite to her own, 'a girl from the Eastside'.

Her horizons were elevated toward higher education but faced frustrations similar to many Mexican American students, when school counselors discouraged them to go to college, redirecting many toward vocational training.

Being unaware of class

requirement for acceptance at UCR, Figueroa asked college-bound friends in band regarding required classes, thereafter signing up for those classes.

Figueroa met Betty Benzor, then assistant director of the Educational Opportunity Program at UCR, who encouraged her to participate in a summer residential program designed to help students who were first in their families to go to college. "While at UCR, Mary did well. She was a student leader and I saw a great potential," Benzor recalls. She graduated with a B.A. in Chicano Studies and Political Science. Figueroa, as board trustee, later commended Benzor for her work and chose a similar role.

"Figueroa has been a voice for the Chicano community and others in Riverside who greatly benefit from education at RCC," Benzor said. "She is dedicated and caring, and sees that education is a key to a successful life. She is dedicated to making a difference for the youth and community."

Figueroa served over two decades

as a correctional counselor/peace officer with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, now retired, and as a victim/witness advocate with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office. She was also a substitute teacher for the Riverside School District and placement counselor for the Riverside's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Figueroa has always balanced her work schedule with added service to her community: helping curb violence in the Eastside, Rape Crisis Center, Riverside Human Relations Commission, San Geronimo Girl Scout Council Board of Directors, among many other activities.

In 1993, Figueroa ran for the Riverside City Council's Fourth Ward. She lost the race but finished ahead of other candidates with better name recognition. After the race, she was approached about running for the RCC board, and was elected.

Figueroa has always insisted on standing up for her beliefs and doing what is in the best interests of the district and her community "What I bring to the table are the common, everyday concerns," she said.

She received the YWCA's "Woman of Achievement Award" in 2004 and the Hispanic Image Awards "Inland Empire Influential Latina of the Year Award" in 2005; and recently was selected on the Search Committee for the Founding Dean of the UCR Medical School.

Figueroa has operated under the belief that every young person, regardless of his or her life experiences, can be successful, given the opportunity. She has, in essence, proven to be a living example.

"She has had a lifelong commitment to the community," Haley said. "After 35 years, it's not hard to tell that she is the real thing."

Mary Figueroa's accomplishments on the RCC Board: accreditation candidacy status for the Moreno Valley and Norco campuses; Riverside campus-Nursing & Science Building; Norco campus-phase III expansion; Riverside campus-Digital Library; Moreno Valley-Allied Health Program; Riverside campus-A.G. Paul Quadrangle renovation; and new programs-Early College and Middle College (high school level) and Passport to College Program.

S.B. COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS HOLDS MEDIA BRIEFING

SAN BERNARDINO, CA - Lowering the dropout rate among students in San Bernardino County and closing the achievement gap are two of the biggest educational challenges, said County Superintendent Gary Thomas in a briefing with the media this morning.

With a 26.6-percent dropout rate over a four-year period for high school students, targeting interventions to keep students on track toward graduation remains a priority for the County Schools office and all of the county's 33 school districts, Thomas said.

In addition, closing the achievement gaps between Hispanic, African American and socio-economically disadvantaged students and those who are White also plagues educators not just in the county, but across the state.

Those were two of the topics addressed by Thomas in his first back-to-school briefing with the media since taking over as the new county superintendent in August.

Local educators Superintendent Virgil Barnes of the Ontario-Montclair School District and Beth Higbee, assistant superintendent of the County Schools' Education Support Services joined Thomas to talk about reform efforts in public education. Ontario-Montclair was successful in having three of its schools leave Program Improvement this year. For the second consecutive

year, the county bucked the state trend with the number of schools in the program for not reaching their Adequate Yearly Progress goals decrease.

Other public education issues discussed included the increase in the number of county schools meeting the state's benchmark for the Academic Performance Index, as well as support for low-performing schools and districts.

Some of the findings discussed were:

- The flattening of enrollment in public schools in the county remains a trend. Last year's enrollment of 428,142 was a slight increase of 701 students from 2006-07. Enrollment across the West End, East Valley and High Desert is sporadic in growth, as well as declines.

- The number of schools reaching the state standard of 800 for the Academic Performing Index (API) increased by 28 schools to 112, as the county's API Growth score increased 12 points to 716.

- The achievement gap among county Hispanic, African American and White students closed on the California High School Exit Exam. Passing rates in both the English language arts and math portions of the exam were closer than in previous years for Hispanic and African American students in comparison to Whites.

S.B. DEMOCRATIC LUNCHEON CLUB

San Bernardino Democratic Luncheon Club of San Bernardino meets at noon on Fridays at Democratic Headquarters, 136 Carousell Mall (near the central glass elevator-lower level). Questions regarding the Democratic Club call Nancy White at (909) 793-6229. Visitors welcomed.

Following is a schedule of speakers:

Oct 3 **Tim Prince**, Attorney at Law, Candidate, 41st Congressional District

Oct 8 **Exec Board Meeting**, 2nd Wed eve at 6:30 pm at Marie Callendars, 800 E Highland Ave. SB

Oct 10 **Don Williamson**, Candidate 59th Assembly District and **Mark Alvarez**, Candidate WestValley Water Board

Oct 17 **Russ Warner**, Candidate 26th Congressional District

Oct 24 **Gloria Anderson**, League of Women Voters, Pros/Cons on Propositions

Oct 31 **Congressman Joe Baca**, 43rd Congressional District

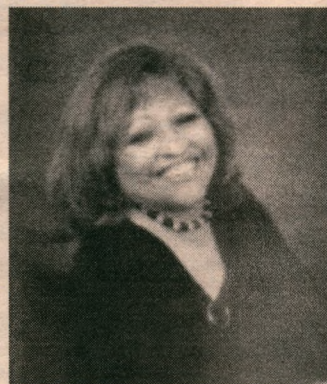
Nov 7 Election Results and Convention Report

Nov 12 **Exec Board Meeting**, 2nd Wed eve at 6:30 pm at Marie Callendars, 800 E Highland Ave. SB

Nov 14 **Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod**, Chair Womens Caucus

Nov 21 **James Ramos**, Chair San Manuel Indians

Nov 28 Dark for Holiday



**Barbara L
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**Candidate for Fontana School
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Community and the Board of Education Together"

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REP. BACA PUSHES FOR INCLUSION OF FORECLOSURE RESCUE LANGUAGE IN POSSIBLE BAILOUT PACKAGE

Baca Bill Language Would Create Emergency Federal Refinancing Program

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) urged his colleagues to include legislation from his bill H.R. 4135, the Family Foreclosure Rescue Corporation Act, into a new version of the proposed financial rescue legislation which failed to pass the House yesterday. H.R. 4135 creates a new entity within the federal government, the Family Foreclosure Rescue Corporation (FFRC) that would be responsible for financing loans to people currently in foreclosure or in serious default. Rep. Baca voted against H.R. 3997, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, because he felt the legislation did not do enough to help everyday Americans, in particular distressed homeowners.

"With San Bernardino and Riverside counties currently ranking

fifth in the nation in overall rates of foreclosure, too many Inland families and children have been hurt by this crisis," said Rep. Baca. "My bill language can reverse this trend, and keep families in homes by providing immediate assistance to those who are already suffering through foreclosures. It is critical to include this homeowner assistance in any financial rescue legislation. If we are going to help the people on Wall Street who caused this crisis, then we need to take care of our families."

H.R. 4135 reintroduces a concept instituted by President Franklin Roosevelt during the Great Depression. President Roosevelt established the Home Owner's Loan Corporation to provide emergency refinance assistance to families who could no longer make their mortgage payments. Now, in the

midst of a new financial crisis, when many mortgage payments have ballooned past affordable levels, the FFRC would function under the same principles and allow families to refinance their mortgage through a government administered loan with a set interest rate. Rep. Baca originally introduced the legislation in November of 2007.

"We all know our economy is in turmoil and that something must be

done to shore up our financial markets," concluded Rep. Baca. "But any rescue plan must include direct assistance for everyday Americans homeowners. Predatory lending and greed are the root causes of the current financial meltdown. With 7,500 families facing foreclosure everyday, we must come together in a national effort to stabilize our housing market and communities across the nation."



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November 4, 2008 General Election
Purther4citycouncil@yahoo.com

Proyecto BRT del Corredor de la Calle E de Omnitrans sbX

¡El Futuro del Tránsito ha Llegado!

Acompáñenos para una Junta de Información y Participación del Público sobre el Proyecto BRT del Corredor de la Calle E de Omnitrans sbX. Corriendo entre la Universidad Cal-State-San Bernardino, el Centro de San Bernardino, Hospitality Lane y destinos de Loma Linda, el propuesto sbX traerá una nueva tecnología de transporte conveniente y de alta velocidad a nuestra área. Infórmese sobre las novedades del proyecto. Comparta sus ideas sobre esta ruta y los posibles impactos que deberían ser estudiados durante el proceso de revisión ambiental.

Jueves, 2 de octubre del 2008

Salón de Juntas Comunitario de la Ciudad
de Loma Linda
25541 Barton Road, Loma Linda

> **Miembro del Concilio Municipal Floyd Petersen estará presente en esta junta desde 3:30 p.m. hasta 4:30 p.m. para discutir el proyecto.**

Martes, 7 de octubre del 2008

Biblioteca Pública Norman Feldheym
555 W. 6th Street, San Bernardino

Martes, 14 de octubre del 2008

Edificio de Wells Fargo, acerca de
Hospitality Lane
1003 E. Brier Drive, San Bernardino

> **El alcalde de San Bernadino Patrick J. Morris estará presente en esta junta desde 4:00 p.m. hasta 4:30 p.m. para discutir el proyecto.**

Sesión Abierta: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Presentación y Discusión del público: 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Habrà traducción al español y refrigerios.

Para más información, visite el portal de internet del proyecto al www.estreet-sbx.com o llame a la línea gràtis del proyecto en el número 1-877-sbX-4777 (1-877-729-4777). Para información sobre transporte público para estas juntas, visite www.omnitrans.org o llame al (800) 966-6428.

Omnitrans sbX E Street Corridor BRT Project

The Future of Transit is Here!

Join us at a Public Participation and Information Meeting for the sbX E Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Project. Traveling between Cal State-San Bernardino, Downtown San Bernardino, Hospitality Lane and Loma Linda destinations, the proposed sbX will bring new high speed, convenient transportation technology to our area. Learn about the latest project developments. Share your ideas about the route and potential impacts that should be studied during the environmental review process.

Thursday, October 2, 2008

City of Loma Linda Community Room
25541 Barton Road, Loma Linda

> **Loma Linda Councilmember Floyd Petersen is scheduled to attend this meeting from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. to discuss the project.**

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Norman Feldheym Public Library
555 W. 6th Street, San Bernardino

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Wells Fargo Building, near Hospitality Lane
1003 E. Brier Drive, San Bernardino

> **San Bernardino Mayor Patrick J. Morris is scheduled to attend this meeting from 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. to discuss the project.**

Open House: 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Presentation and Community Discussion: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Spanish interpretation and light refreshments will be available.

For more information, visit the project website at www.estreet-sbx.com, or call the toll-free project help line at 1-877-sbX-4777 (1-877-729-4777). For public transportation options for these meetings, please visit www.omnitrans.org or call (800) 966-6428.

NATIONWIDE STUDY FINDS GIRLS ASPIRE TO DIFFERENT KIND OF LEADERSHIP

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Despite the increasing presence of women in leadership positions from Wall Street to the halls of Congress, more than half of American girls say they don't aspire to be leaders, turned off by the conventional conception of leadership as command and control, according to a study released today by Girl Scouts of the USA.

The nationwide survey, conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI), found that 39 percent of girls want to be leaders, and that the desire for leadership is higher among African-American (53 percent), Hispanic (50 percent) and Asian-American (59 percent) girls compared to Caucasian girls (34 percent). Yet a majority of girls (52 percent) are deeply ambivalent about leadership, saying that being a leader is not that important to them.

The data indicate, however, that while girls find the command-and-control style of leadership unappealing, a majority of them would aspire to a different kind of leadership focused on personal principles, ethical behavior and the ability to affect social change.

Some 68 percent of survey respondents said they would want to be leaders who stand up "for their

beliefs and values," and 59 percent said that they would like to be a leader "who tries to change the world for the better."

"I am proud this research study confirms girls' views of leadership skew towards altruistic purposes to contribute to society and make a positive impact," said Patricia Diaz Dennis, Chair of the Girl Scouts of the USA National Board of Directors, the first Latina to hold the position. "Girl Scout programs instill strong leadership skills and inspire girls to realize their dreams and make purposeful decisions. Leadership for our Girl Scouts can mean building strong families or communities, running a Fortune 500 company or some combination of life goals at different times in their lives."

The study, which provides a rare glimpse into girls' evolving perceptions of leadership and the kind of leadership that this generation of girls aspire to and connect with, involved a national survey of 2,475 girls and 1,514 boys ages 8 to 17, as well as a series of focus groups and ethnographic interviews.

The survey also yielded data on current leadership perceptions. Overall, 61 percent of youth consider themselves leaders in their everyday

lives, with the proportion being highest among African-American girls (75 percent), African-American boys (74 percent), and Hispanic girls (72 percent).

Indeed, the survey and qualitative research revealed that boys and girls share many of the aspirations to and perceptions of leadership. However, there were differences. Girls' leadership aspirations were more likely to be driven by altruistic motives, whereas boys were more likely to be motivated by power and money.

Girls were more likely than boys to be leaders because they want to help other people (67 percent vs. 53 percent), share their knowledge and skills with others (53 percent vs. 47 percent) and change the world for the better (45 percent vs. 31 percent).

Boys, on the other hand, were significantly more likely than girls to be motivated by the desire to be their own boss (38 percent vs. 33 percent), make more money (33 percent vs. 26 percent), and have more power (22 percent vs. 14 percent).

Finally, a strong majority (82 percent) of youth agreed that girls and boys are equally good at being leaders. However, 56 percent of

respondents also agreed that "in our society, it is more difficult to become a leader for a woman than a man." And more than half (52 percent) of girls and boys agreed that "girls have to work harder than boys in order to gain positions of leadership." That perception was more widely held by girls (57 percent) than boys (44 percent).

About Girl Scouts

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls with 3.6 million girl and adult members worldwide. Girl Scouting is the leading authority on girls' healthy development, and builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. The organization serves girls from every corner of the United States and its territories. Girls Scouts of the USA also serves American girls and their classmates attending American or international schools overseas in 90 countries. For more information on how to join, volunteer, reconnect or donate to Girl Scouts, call (800) GSUSA 4 U (800-478-7248) or visit www.girlscouts.org.

Contact: Elicet Vega 310.921.7815 elicet@prconexion.com

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PASSPORTS DENIED: MEXICAN AMERICANS CAN'T TRAVEL

By Roberto Lovato, New America Media

[Editor's note: Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people of Mexican descent were subjected to unreasonable and arbitrary demands to prove that they are citizens of the United States before getting a passport. This includes Texas native, David Hernandez, a decorated Army veteran. Editor]

Texas native David Hernandez, a decorated Army veteran who served his country in different parts of the world, can no longer see the world after his country denied him a passport.

Hernandez and other residents living in and around the U.S.-Mexico border are plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit alleging that, in denying them passports, the U.S. State Department is engaging in a new kind of racial discrimination: non-citizen profiling.

"This all started when I sent them (the U.S. State Department) my passport and they sent me a letter saying that it wasn't sufficient. So, I sent them all kinds of documents -a baptismal certificate, military records, and pictures of me in the pre-kindergarten, a copy of my

grandmother's birth certificate that showed that she was an American citizen," he said, adding, "and that still wasn't enough. I knew something was wrong when they even started asking me for things like census documents from the 1930's that don't even exist."

Hernandez and the other plaintiffs say that the U.S. government is denying them passports because they are persons of Mexican and Latino descent whose births were assisted by parteras, or midwives. "The law says that if you're born in this country, have parents who are or who get naturalized, you are a citizen," said Hernandez his voice cracking with anger and frustration. "We were all born here. We're all citizens. The only difference is that we're Hispanic, we grew up poor and we happened not to be born in a hospital. My mother had to pay a partera 40 instead."

Lawyers for Hernandez and the other plaintiffs say they have documented a systematic pattern of racial discrimination among hundreds, perhaps thousands of people of Mexican descent who, like him, applied for passports and were

subjected to unreasonable and arbitrary demands for an inordinate and often impossible-to-find documents proving they are Citizens of the United States.

For Robin Goldfaden, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which is co-counsel in the case along with other law firms, the passport suit "shows a spirit of disregard for birthright citizenship and a reckless disregard for the actual citizenship of an entire class of people."

Goldfaden pointed out that although midwifery is a long-held tradition among whites, blacks and others living in Appalachia, Texas and other parts of the United States where hospital-assisted birth is unaffordable or unavailable, the denial of passports is only taking place among people of Mexican descent living along the southern border.

"Some of the plaintiffs in this case were born in the 1930s and earlier, when, for example, half of all babies in Texas were delivered by midwives," said Goldfaden, who believes that the case raises concerns beyond those raised by Hernandez and other plaintiffs. "Anytime the government violates due process and the constitutional promise of equal protection as they did in this case, we should all be concerned."

The passport case comes on the heels of intensified efforts to fundamentally alter the definition of who is and isn't a citizen. For several years, members of Congress and anti-immigrant groups in Texas and several other states have proposed state and federal laws denying birthright citizenship to the U.S. born children of undocumented immigrants. Some Texas residents like Father Mike Seiffert also trace such practices to the long history of denying citizenship to different categories of people in the United States.

"I was born in Alabama" said

Seiffert, who is pastor of the San Felipe de Jesus Catholic Church in Brownsville, "and I've seen this kind of discrimination before; I've seen government officials trying to deny rights to people by not recognizing them as citizens, only here in Texas it's not African Americans, but Latinos."

Seiffert became aware of the passport denial issue in his church. "After a couple of the members of my congregation came to me concerned and even crying because they were denied passports and would no longer be able to see their families in Mexico, I decided to ask the congregation if there were others facing similar situations," Seiffert said. "And 60 people came up and said they had the same passport problem."

He called what happened to members of his congregation affected by the passports situation 'disgraceful.' Behind the tears, he said are, "Many members of our congregation (who) won't be able to do what they've done for decades: cross the border to see their families; many won't be able to sustain themselves by doing business as they've always done in Mexico," he said. "There's no hospital around here and when you drive many miles to get healthcare, it's very expensive. So people will also be denied basic healthcare because they will no longer be able to go just across the border to get cheap medicine or see a doctor in Matamorros for \$15. This is deeply disturbing and it reminds me of Alabama."

And like in the Deep South, the non-citizen profiling in Texas is also inspiring activism among many. "I grew up studying the history of civil rights, Martin Luther King and how he had to fight his own government," said Hernandez, "But I never thought I'd be fighting for my civil rights. Now I understand history in a different way."



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NOV. 4 SAMPLE BALLOTS DELIVERED TO VOTERS

The Registrar of Voters has begun to mail sample ballot pamphlets to registered voters in San Bernardino County. Voters not registered in time for the initial mailing will be included in the second mailing later in October. The purpose of the sample ballot pamphlet is to provide general information pertaining to the upcoming November 4, 2008 Presidential General Election.

The pamphlet is an information guide that includes information on:

- Contests to be voted
- Vote by mail voting information
- Election Day – what to expect at the polls
- Arguments and rebuttals for local measures
- Candidate statements

Additionally, on the back cover is the location of the polling place and an application for a vote by mail ballot that includes a box to apply for permanent vote by mail status.

The following are other important dates leading up to the November 4 Presidential General Election:

10/6 — The Registrar of Voters begins mailing vote by mail ballots.

10/6-11/4 — Voters may cast their ballots at the Registrar of Voters

office Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Also attached is a list of early voting sites at various locations throughout the County.

10/20 — Last day to register to vote in this General Election. Voters who have recently moved must inform the Registrar of Voters of their new address by sending the new address information in writing or by re-registering by this date.

10/28 — Last day to request a vote by mail ballot. Applications must be in the Registrar of Voters office no later than 5 p.m.

10/25 & 11/1 — Saturday Voting is available between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Registrar's office.

11/4 — ELECTION DAY. Vote by mail ballots must be received at the Registrar of Voters office or at any polling place in San Bernardino County no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. Postmarks do not count.

To find the location of your polling place either see the back cover of the sample ballot pamphlet or look it up on the Registrar's web site at www.sbcrov.com

S.B. SECOND HOMELESS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOV. 17

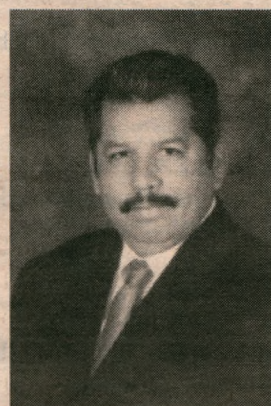
RIALTO, CA - Community leaders are invited to attend the second annual Homeless Summit on Nov. 17. The event is sponsored by the San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services and will be held at the Department of Behavioral Health in Rialto.

The free event will focus on future directions for policy and fundraising with the goal of abolishing homelessness. The conference is for

key community leaders on homelessness representing state, county and city organizations.

The summit will start at 8 a.m. and run to 4 p.m. It will be held at the Department of Behavioral Health office at 850 E. Foothill Blvd. in Rialto.

Community leaders planning to attend need to RSVP by Oct. 24 by calling (909) 387-7448.



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- Nov. 14, 4:30-6 p.m. Pine Room, Lower Commons

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University Contact: Catherine Farrington
Administrative Assistant, Doctoral Program
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FONTANA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Fontana Democratic Club meets every fourth Saturday of the month at the Big Apple Restaurant (on the corner of Locust & Arrow) at 9:00 a.m. Visitors welcomed. For information call Jess Sandoval at (909) 829-4388 or (909) 953-0897

San Bernardino City Unified School District Is now hiring for the following bilingual positions:

Bil. Comm. Res. Worker- 12.04 hr.
Bil. Fam. Supp. Worker-13.81 hr.
Bil. Inst. Asst./SI- 13.81 hr.
Bil. Library Asst.-12.04 hr.
Bil. Office Asst. I/HA - 11.03 hr.
Bil. Parent Vol. Worker-12.04 hr.
Bil. Sch. Outreach Wkr.-14.94 hr.

Sal & Bil diff. based on 40-hr wk., 8 hrs per day. Bil. diff: \$50.00 per mo. Most positions in these classifications are part time only. Benefits: M/D/V/L + PERS; SL - based on 40-hr wk., 8 hrs per day. Apply: SBCUSD, HR-Classified, 777 N F St, San Bernardino, (909) 381-1234. For more info, visit our website at <http://www.sbcusd.com> AAE/EO



New County recruitments this week:

Animal Control Officer Trainee
\$12.40-\$15.86/hr
Assistant Director of Respiratory
Care Services
\$27.12-\$34.62/hr
Forensic Autopsy Assistant &
Trainee
\$2,884.27-\$4,057.73/mo
Hospital Housekeeper Trainee/I
\$8.54-\$14.37/hr
Licensed Vocational Nurse II-Public
Health
\$15.86-\$20.23/hr
Medical Records Coder I
\$20.23-\$25.82/hr
Probation Division Director I/II
\$6,000.80-\$8,465.60/mo
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Dispatcher I
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The Department of Childrens Services of the County of San Bernardino is hiring Social Service Practitioners to provide professional social work services including diagnosis, assessment, intervention and case management support to children and/or families with complex health, psychosocial or economic problems. Work requires investigating and/or supporting cases involving neglect, abuse, emotional or behavioral problems, physical/mental disabilities or other health conditions. Apply by 10/17/08

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TELACU ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

All potential applicants are notified per the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Handbook 4350.3 Rev.-1, Change 2 and the Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan that the following property TELACU Las Fuentes is currently accepting applications for residency.

TELACU Las Fuentes (202 PRAC)
1807 11th Street
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 222.0230

To be eligible for the Section 202 PRAC Program, the primary applicant must be 62 years of age or older. Applicant must also meet HUD established annual income levels and the project's Tenant Selection Plan (TSP) requirements. You may obtain a copy of the TSP by calling the number listed below. Complete applications will be added to the project waiting list by date and time received and assigned the next number on the waiting list. Selection of potential residents will be made in chronological order based on the waiting list number assigned.

Applications may be requested by calling the facility listed above. You may also have an application mailed to you. For further information on TELACU owned and/or managed properties that are currently accepting applications for residency, please contact TELACU Residential Management at 323.838.8556, 1248 Goodrich Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90022.

